

September 10, 2021

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By E-mail

Confidential Treatment Requested

The Honorable James Clyburn
Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Clyburn:

We are writing on behalf of JBS USA Food Company (“JBS”) in further response to your letter dated February 1, 2021. Today’s submission (1) supplements JBS’s May 21, 2021 response to Request 5 to include presumed or suspected COVID-19 cases among employees at JBS and Pilgrim’s Pride Corporation (“PPC”) based on employee self-reporting or reports on the employee’s behalf, *see* attached Appendix A; and (2) updates vaccination rate data for JBS and PPC facilities.

I. Presumed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases

As detailed in previous submissions, JBS and PPC developed a multifaceted approach to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this response, JBS and PPC facilities tracked illnesses and conducted contact tracing, often in coordination with local health departments, related to potential COVID-19 cases or exposures.¹ Appendix A to this letter reflects aggregate totals from these efforts.²

Notably, the data in this submission includes possible cases of COVID-19 and is not limited to medically-confirmed positive cases.³ While JBS and PPC initially required a positive

¹ See, e.g., JBS-SSCC_000000023 (JBS Safe Work Playbook).

² This submission covers the period from March 1, 2020 to February 1, 2021.

³ In addition, please see JBS’s letters dated May 21, 2021 and May 28, 2021 for further information regarding work-related case determinations.

The Honorable James Clyburn
September 10, 2021
Page 2

COVID-19 test result or a written note from a physician indicating the person was presumptively positive in order to confirm illness, the companies took a more liberal approach as the pandemic progressed and relied on employee self-reporting or another person reporting on an employee's behalf. As employee health and safety was a top priority, JBS and PPC's relaxation of this requirement aimed to discourage people from coming to work following potential exposure or illness.

Of the total JBS and PPC workforce employed over the covered period of time, the case rate was 12.8%.⁴ When compared to CDC estimates of presumed case rates, the data in this submission shows a lower COVID-19 case rate in the JBS and PPC workforce than in the U.S. population as a whole. The Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") tracks both estimated symptomatic and total case rates.⁵ The CDC reports a total estimated U.S. national case rate of 28% for all individuals between 18-64, and a rate of 25.6% for all individuals 18 years and older.⁶ The CDC also reports a total estimated U.S. national symptomatic case rate of 23.9% for all individuals between 18-64, and a rate of 21.7% for all individuals 18 years and older.⁷

II. JBS and PPC Vaccination Efforts

As detailed in JBS's May 21, 2021 submission, JBS and PPC have implemented large-scale vaccination efforts to further protect team members and they have also undertaken a variety of measures to encourage employee vaccination. For example, JBS and PPC offer incentives, including \$100 bonuses for team members that get vaccinated, a \$2,100 bonus for team members who are fully vaccinated and remain with JBS through December 2022, and a program that gives local community members the opportunity to win free meat for a year if they get vaccinated, resulting in the vaccination of more than 2,000 community members. JBS also

⁴ This is based on the total number of individuals employed at JBS and PPC from March 1, 2020, to February 1, 2021: 100,619.

⁵ The CDC tracks these estimated rates as part of its effort to assess the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic given that, as the CDC has explained, confirmed COVID-19 cases "likely represent only a fraction of the true number that have occurred in the population." See Estimated COVID-19 Burden, CDC, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210428054125/https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html>.

⁶ These CDC estimates include both symptomatic and non-symptomatic cases, including unreported cases, among the U.S. population between February 2020 and December 2020. See data from February-December 2020 at Estimated COVID-19 Infections, Symptomatic Illnesses, and Hospitalizations--United States, CDC, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210428054125/https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html>.

⁷ These CDC estimates includes symptomatic cases, including unreported cases, among the U.S. population between February 2020 and December 2020. See data from February-December 2020 at Estimated COVID-19 Infections, Symptomatic Illnesses, and Hospitalizations--United States, CDC, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210428054125/https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html>.

The Honorable James Clyburn
September 10, 2021
Page 3

has launched a new pilot program at certain locations that mandates vaccination for new hires as part of the onboarding process.

These efforts have proven successful: as of August 11, 2021, 76% of JBS employees are fully vaccinated, with multiple locations exceeding 80%.⁸ For example, 92% of JBS's Omaha, Nebraska employees have been fully vaccinated; 86% at Worthington, Minnesota; 85% at Marshalltown, Iowa; and 83% at Ottumwa, Iowa. Similarly, 61% of PPC employees have been fully vaccinated. In total, nearly 42,730 JBS and PPC employees have been fully vaccinated as of August 11, approximately 69% of the total workforce.⁹

JBS and PPC vaccination rates are generally significantly higher than those of the surrounding communities.¹⁰ As just two examples, 83% of employees at JBS's Ottumwa facility have been fully vaccinated, while the county vaccination rate is 51% and 86% of employees at JBS's Worthington facility have been fully vaccinated, while the county vaccination rate is 63%.

* * *

JBS respectfully requests that its productions be accorded special protection from disclosure and that they be maintained confidential under all applicable House and Committee rules. JBS further requests that Select Subcommittee staff provide the undersigned with notice and an opportunity to be heard in the event that the Select Subcommittee determines it will disclose to a third party any documents from JBS's production. Such treatment would be consistent with the respect for sensitive and proprietary business information the House oversight committees have shown in the past.

⁸ According to the CDC, "people are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after single-dose vaccination, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine." *When You've Been Fully Vaccinated*, CDC (Updated Aug. 19, 2021), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.

⁹ Even as these high vaccination rates climb, JBS and PPC continue to implement other protective measures. JBS and PPC comply with OSHA guidance, including social distancing and masking practices.

¹⁰ Data on vaccination rates in this submission is from the CDC's county-level vaccination tracker as of August 12, 2021, comparing county vaccination rates for fully vaccinated individuals in the 18+ population with JBS and PPC workforce vaccination rates. See *COVID-19 Integrated County View*, CDC (last visited Aug. 31, 2021), <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

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The Honorable James Clyburn
September 10, 2021
Page 4

Please call me (202-663-6454) or Rachel Dober (202-663-6204) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alyssa DaCunha', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alyssa DaCunha

Rachel Dober

cc: Honorable Steve Scalise

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The Honorable James Clyburn
 September 10, 2021
 Page 5

Appendix A – JBS and PPC Presumed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases by Facility

JBS U.S. Presumed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases By Facility^[a] March 1, 2020 – February 1, 2021	
Location/Business	Count of COVID-19 Cases^[b]
[Carriers - Various Locations] ^[c]	10
[Corporate - Various Locations] ^[d]	80
[Live Pork - Various Locations] ^[e]	98
Beardstown	403
Booneville	72
Cactus	1,027
Council Bluffs	150
Denver	33
Elkhart	68
Grand Island	636
Greeley	341
Green Bay	413
Hyrum	758
Lenoir	31
Louisville	151
Marshalltown	353
Mason	37
Memphis	27
Moberly	1
MOPAC ^[f]	8
Olympia	3
Omaha	244
Ottumwa	580
Pipestone	20
Plainwell	160
Planterra	-
Riverside	111
Souderton	142
South Bend	-
Swanton	1
Tolleson	533
Tupelo	16
Worthington	660
Total	7,167

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The Honorable James Clyburn
 September 10, 2021
 Page 6

PPC U.S. Presumed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases By Facility^[a]	
March 1, 2020 – February 1, 2021	
Location/Business	Count of COVID-19 Cases^[b]
Arcadia	92
Athens (GA)	248
Broadway	82
Canton	106
Carrollton	91
Chattanooga	188
Cold Spring	487
DeQueen	437
Douglas	144
Elberton	44
Ellijay	72
Enterprise	79
Gainesville	264
Guntersville	238
Live Oak	364
Lufkin	323
Marshville	158
Mayfield	238
Moorefield	283
Mt. Pleasant/Pittsburg	701
Nacogdoches	270
Natchitoches	124
Peachtree City	-
Russellville	263
Sanford	171
Sumter	130
Waco	95
Total	5,692

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The Honorable James Clyburn
September 10, 2021
Page 7

- [a] The data cover facilities in the continental United States.
- [b] As discussed in JBS's accompanying letter, these numbers reflect presumed or suspected COVID-19 cases based on employee self-reporting or reports on the employee's behalf.
- [c] "Carriers – Various Locations" includes the Carriers corporate office in Greeley, CO, as well as terminals in Greeley, CO; Green Bay, WI; Cactus, TX; Pittsburg, TX; and Oakwood, GA.
- [d] "Corporate – Various Locations" includes the JBS USA corporate office in Greeley, CO; the Empire Packing corporate office in Memphis, TN; and the Swift Prepared corporate office in Chicago, IL.
- [e] "Live Pork - Various Locations" includes JBS Live Pork facilities in Centralia, MO; Dalhart, TX; Fremont, IA; London, AR; Morrilton, AR; Russellville, AR; and Umpire, AR.
- [f] MOPAC is a Pennsylvania based renderer and recycler owned by JBS.